

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences**

**In re the Application**

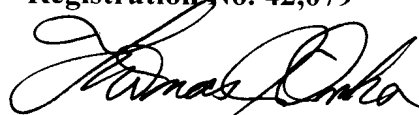
**Inventor** : **Buczak**  
**Application No.** : **10/029,830**  
**Filed** : **December 27, 2001**  
**For** : **HIERARCHICAL DECISION FUSION OF  
RECOMMENDER SCORES**

**APPEAL BRIEF**

**On Appeal from Group Art Unit 2623**

**Date: May 14, 2008**

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**Sir:**

**In response to a Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated April 17, 2008, Appellant submits the following revised "Summary of Claimed Subject Matter" in accordance with M.P.E.P §41.37(d)(B):**

**V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER**

The present invention is expressed primarily in independent claims 1 and 15. Claim 1 recites a method for providing hierarchical decision fusion of recommender scores, said method comprising the steps of: (a) providing a plurality of recommenders at a first level, said recommenders being grouped to at least one of a plurality of predetermined groups, see page 3, lines 1-6, (b) providing a predetermined number of first level fusion centers for receiving an output from each of said recommenders from at least one particular group, (c) outputting a decision by each one of said plurality of recommenders grouped in step (a) to a respective first level fusion center, wherein each decision provides a recommendation, (d) each respective first level fusion center performing a first fusing step of the decisions output in step (c) by said recommenders from said at least one particular group, (e) each respective first level fusion center outputting a first enhanced decision based on the fusion performed in step (d), see page 6, lines 6-17, (f) providing a plurality of second level fusion centers for receiving the first enhanced decisions output from a group of said first level fusion center if the first enhanced decisions are not within a predefined range; (g) each respective second level fusion center performing a second fusing step of the first enhanced decisions received from the group of said first level fusion centers; (h) each respective second level fusion center outputting a second enhanced decision; and outputting to a user a finally enhanced decision chosen from the enhanced decisions in step (h) or (e), see page 6, line 19 – page 7, line 4 and page 7, line 16 – page 8, line 4.

Independent claim 15 recites a system for hierarchical decision fusion of recommender scores, said system comprising:

a central processing unit and a memory in communication with said central processing unit (see page 11, lines 1-2; and Fig. 2, items 205 and 210, respectively);

a recommender module comprising fusion software for fusing recommendations of a predetermined number of groups (see page 12, line 22 – page 13, line 3; and Fig. 2, item 235);

means for outputting a recommendation to a user (see Fig. 2, item 240; and page 13, lines 5-8 which provides examples of structure corresponding to the function of the means plus function claim language);

wherein said recommender module provides at least two levels of fusion, wherein a plurality of recommendations are fused at a first level to provide a plurality of first enhanced decisions, and said plurality of first enhanced decision are fused at a second level to provide a plurality of second enhanced decisions which are fewer in number than said first enhanced decisions, if the first enhanced decisions are not within a predefined range (see page 6, line 19 – page 7, line 4 and page 7, line 16 – page 8, line 4).